(b) Notice Boards indicating the charges to be paid are prominently displayed at the parking places for the information of Public. Besides surprise inspections are conducted to ensure that Contractors do not collect higher charges. Action like imposition of fine, etc. is taken against the contractor found indulging in over-charging the passengers.

Purchase of Urdu Books and Magazines in the Railways

2030. SHRI MOHAMMED AFZAL *alias* MEEM AFZAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the amount spent on the purchase of Urdu Books and Magazines etc. by Railways during the last three years;

(b) whether any Committee has been constituted for the purhcase thereof; and

(c) if so, what is the number of meetings held by the Committee last year alongwith the number of books and magazines etc. selected by it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) to (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Occupying the reserved seat by some mafias in trains

2031. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that at certain mafias occupy the seats and berths in advance in the unreserved class-II compartments and thereafter vacate them for the helpless passengers on premium;

(b) if so, what remedial action Government propose to take in this regard;

(c) whether Government propose to take the help of intelligence agencies in this regard; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) Some cases of cornering of seats in second class unreserved coaches by anti-social elements have come to notice.

(b) Checks are conducted with the assistance of Government Railway Police and Railway Protection Force to apprehend people indulging in cornering of seats. At train originating stations prone to this menace, unreserved coaches are kept locked to the extent possible till they are placed on the platform and commercial and GRP/RPF staff is deployed to curb any such activity.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. However, assistance of Railway Vigilance Organisation and RPF is taken wherever necessary.

Licences to caterers in Railway

2032. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to issue licences to caterers to provide eatables, drinks and food on trains and platforms;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have received any application for this purpose from Madhya Pradesh; and

(d) if so, what action Government have taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) and (b) Most of the catering units on Indian Railways are managed by private contractors. Departmental catering exist only at selected stations and trains. A decision has been taken that these departmental units should also be managed by reputed caterers.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.